McGill Office of Sustainability Survey

## Sustainability Literacy Questions

* 1. Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?
     1. Recycling all recyclable packaging
     2. Reducing consumption of all products
     3. Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
     4. Buying the newest products available
     5. None of the above
     6. I don't know
  2. Which of the following statements about the relationship between environmental issues and socioeconomic issues are true:
     1. Statement 1: people living in poverty are disproportionately impacted by climate change because they are more likely to live in areas threatened by water scarcity, vector-borne disease, and/or potential damage from storms and floods.
     2. Statement 2: Wealthier people are disproportionately impacted by climate change because they are more likely to own properties and businesses that can be negatively influenced by water scarcity, vector-borne disease, and/or potential damage from storms and floods.
     3. Statement 3: People of all socioeconomic classes are equally impacted by climate change, but for different reasons.
     4. Statement 4: Environmental issues and socioeconomic issues are unrelated.
     5. None of the above
     6. I don't know
  3. In North America, which of the following would have the greatest impact on reducing your personal carbon footprint? (1=greatest impact; 4=least impact)
     1. Washing your clothes in cold water
     2. Eat a plant-based diet
     3. Avoid one round-trip trans-Atlantic Flight
     4. Upgrade light bulbs
     5. None of the above
     6. I don't know
  4. What percentage of water on earth is fit for human consumption?
     1. 50%
     2. 10%
     3. 5%
     4. Less than 1%
     5. I don’t know
  5. According to Second Harvest, Canada’s largest food rescue organization, what percentage of all food produced in Canada is lost or wasted?
     1. 58%
     2. 25%
     3. 13%
     4. 0%
     5. I don’t know
  6. Choose the best definition of “sustainable development”:
     1. Continual growth over a period of time, as measured in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
     2. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
     3. Research and Development (R&D) of sustainable technologies such as electric cars and solar power
     4. Reserving land and resources for preservation so they never can be used
     5. I don't know
  7. The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 interconnected categories that address the global challenges that human society faces, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Which one of the following is **not** a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as defined by the United Nations?
     1. Zero Hunger
     2. Reduced Inequalities
     3. Climate Action
     4. Safe and Enjoyable Consumption
     5. I don’t know
  8. What are Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria used for? Please choose the most appropriate answer below:
     1. They are used by the United Nations to measure the sustainability goals of individual higher education institutions
     2. They are the three central factors in measuring the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business
     3. They are the three elements that the Canadian government uses in order to measure the sustainability of federal ministries
     4. They are categories that rate the sustainability of museums and other cultural institutions
     5. I don’t know

**Sources for sustainability literacy questions:**

Concordia University Sustainability Survey (2020)

University of British Columbia Sustainability Literacy Assessment (2016)

“The best way to reduce your carbon footprint is one the government isn’t telling you about,” Sid Perkins, *Science*. Jul. 11, 2017

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/07/best-way-reduce-your-carbon-footprint-one-government-isn-t-telling-you-about>

National Groundwater Association: <https://www.ngwa.org/what-is-groundwater/About-groundwater/information-on-earths-water#:~:text=The%20earth%20has%20an%20abundance,and%20floating%20in%20the%20atmosphere.>

“Crisis of Food Waste.” Report by *Second Harvest*. 2019. <https://secondharvest.ca/research/the-avoidable-crisis-of-food-waste/>

“Environmental, social, and corporate governance.” *Wikipedia*. Accessed 10 Aug. 2020. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental,_social_and_corporate_governance>